

## MAGAZINES

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE MAGAZINES

#### *Sources of Supplies*

Save for a possible undiscovered island or some arctic regions there is probably no place in this world of ours where one could go and not feel the pinch of war. The neutral countries are suffering along with the belligerents, and the disruption of world trade has made the question of sources of supplies near home one of paramount importance. As regards such sources in the Orient, there is some information to be found in *The Far Eastern Review* (January), for instance the article "The Sugar Industries in Java—Past And Present," reprinted from the *Bulletin of the South Sea Association*. According to this source, sugar was first manufactured in the Dutch East Indies in the district of Batavia, special canals (*Molenvliet*) having been constructed for the purpose of transporting the product. Owing to lack of fuel, however, the center of the sugar industry later moved to other districts, with the government promoting the growing of sugar cane as extensively as possible. After the Great War there was an overproduction of sugar which eventually developed into a major crisis. The sugar conference in London in 1937 settled matters by allotting quotas to every producing country, allowing Java 1,400,000 metric tons, about half of Java's best annual production. Authorities in Java are greatly concerned over this state of affairs, as the reduction of sugar-cane cultivation means the destruction of the income of so many natives. For although rice, rubber, and tin production play a great part as a source of income to the natives, sugar takes first place in importance.

Then there is an article on all-important oil in the same issue of *The Far Eastern Review* entitled "Oil Production in Burma." It appears that the Magwe petroleum center was known to the Burmese as early as the eleventh century and was exploited since then in the most primitive manner until 1885. In that year the British stepped in and gradually began to make their influence felt until in the end they controlled production completely. The development of recent years shows that, while there was an increase in value, the volume of production decreased, mainly owing to labor troubles. It is said, however, that with the help of emergency measures the output has been greatly accelerated of late so as to meet the increased demands of Burma's belligerent customers, i.e. India and Chungking.

Pacific fisheries today have become big business, according to Andrew G. Steiger in *The Far Eastern Review*. There is a struggle for space going on between the three nations that

control fishing in the North Pacific. Soviet Russia, the USA, and Japan are the competitors, each possessing large and well-equipped fishing fleets. Americans were the first to go far afield and to establish commercial outposts on the Russian coast. At that time—towards the middle of the last century—whaling played the most important part in North Pacific fishing but did not at any time provide cause for international conflict, unlike sealing which was and still is causing much bickering among the nations concerned. Today the salmon fishery of Alaska is of foremost importance as far as the USA is concerned, but there too a dispute with Japan seems unavoidable. Russian fishery interests have developed on a large scale only since the Soviets came into power. Altogether the extent of Russian fishing has increased tenfold during the last twelve years. Fish in these waters seem to be so plentiful that no depletion of stocks is being feared here. Salmon stocks which had been fairly exhausted in the past are being rapidly replenished now by the artificial salmon hatchery at Lake Tioply. As to Japan, fisheries are a major factor in this country's economic life. Her fishing fleet of 363,000 vessels finds its way to all corners of the Pacific basin from the Bering Sea to the Antarctic. Japanese fishing boats are equipped with every modern device to ensure a maximum of efficiency, but her two rivals in the north—Soviet Russia and the USA—are equally well equipped and efficient. In the south, however, native coastal fishing craft are no match for the Japanese who have for some time completely dominated fishing and canning in the Philippines, for instance. The same goes for pearl fishing in the waters north of Australia, where the Japanese gained the upper hand; and even in the whaling enterprises in the Antarctic Japan's share has been growing steadily.

#### *Foreign Blood in China*

China, in the course of the many centuries of her history, has absorbed much foreign blood, in most cases without leaving a trace on the surface of her population. This is not the case, however, with the Jews of K'ai-feng, as we learn from an article written under this title by Mark Cadwell in *The China Digest* (February). It was in the second century B.C., when K'ai-fengfu, the capital of Honan, was a big and prosperous city, that large groups of Jews arrived with Roman silk caravans in search of the abundant wealth of which they had heard so much. They stayed and settled there and soon grew to a big

community. Outwardly they adapted themselves completely to their new surroundings, took to Chinese dress, language, and houses but clung to their religion and continued to say their prayers in Hebrew. The time came when K'aifengfu's prosperity declined. No longer was it the imperial residence, and the Hwangho had done much damage by flooding the town time and again. Many Jews then left for more promising parts, and the remaining few were soon forgotten. In the seventeenth century Father Ricci of the Jesuit mission rediscovered them. Interest in them, however, died with Father Ricci, and nothing more was heard of this strange colony. Some two hundred years later, though, the Jesuit fathers of Zicawei in Shanghai found some manuscripts that led to the second rediscovery of the Jews of K'aifeng. American Jewish circles were approached with an appeal to save this colony from extinction. Nothing came of it. Then the Shanghai Jewish community took the matter up and got in touch with the K'aifeng Jews. Plans were made to rebuild the synagogue and to revive the old faith. But when it was found that the cost would exceed by far the sum that the Shanghai Jews were willing to sacrifice, the whole affair petered out, and the Jews of K'aifeng were left to their fate.

While the K'aifeng Jews were of little or no consequence in the history of China, the Manchus, who, as foreigners, ruled the country for some three hundred years, will not be so easily forgotten. Samuel Small gives a brief account of their reign in *The China Digest* (February). Their advent to power is a most dramatic chapter in history. When a Tartar rebel succeeded in overthrowing the throne, the last emperor of the decaying Ming dynasty committed suicide, little knowing that a Manchu contingent had arrived and expelled the usurper. When the Manchus found that the emperor whom they had proposed to save was dying, they decided to proclaim themselves rulers of China. After forty years of fighting with contesting Ming princes they succeeded in gaining control of the whole empire, making every rebellion an excuse for placing Manchu garrisons all over the country, thereby greatly increasing their power. The Manchu language, which had no other means of record than knots in strings or notches in sticks, in due time adopted a veneer of Chinese. With the collapse of the Ching (Manchu) dynasty at the beginning of this century, the Manchus lost their identity completely, adopting Chinese nationality and ways of life. Yet another race was absorbed into the big Asiatic melting-pot of China.

### Looking Southward

What with the theater of war moving south, and new developments being expected daily, Australia has slipped into the focus, which makes the article "Annexation of Australia" in *Voice of New China* (January 15) interesting

reading. The charge is made that Australia, ruled by a governor general (who represents the King of England), a senate, and a house of representatives, has been run in the interests of Britain alone without having any regard for the natives. Australia's army was used by Great Britain on various battlefields in all four corners of the globe. Small wonder that a growing anxiety is felt in Australia as to what the future may hold, for the country has only a limited defense system based mainly on emergency measures recently taken, and depends to a large extent on help from the mother country. Whether this help will be forthcoming in Australia's hour of need and, if at all, how much of it, remains a matter of grave doubt, considering previous experience in the present war.

Indo-China appears by comparison as a "haven amidst tempest," to quote a caption from the article on French Indo-China in *Asiana* (February). The Emperor of Annam has not, contrary to American news dispatches, been arrested by the Japanese. Restrictions are hardly felt in the life of the average foreigner. Relations with the mother country are excellent, and there is also a growing co-operation with Nanking. With the expected resumption of coastal shipping, French Indo-China is looking forward to increased business.

### Heraldry

It may not be generally known that the family crest is an institution by no means confined to the West. The Japanese have it too and call it *mon*, and Yorisuke Numata tells us all about it in "The Japanese Family Crest" in *Contemporary Japan* (December 1941). As a rule Japanese crests are symmetrical figures representing the family name and capable of being divided into two or more equal parts. Originally they did not represent the great names of the country but were usually adopted when branches of an old family settled in a new district. All followers of a military clan used crests on their banners to indicate their districts. The crests of military lords became very widely known during the period of internal strife under the Kamakura Government. In the Tokugawa period that followed, peace was restored, and crests began to assume significance for ceremonial purposes. The habit of having one's crests adorn the upper part of one's robes led first to the demand for symmetrical designs and then to the invention of new and more ornamental crests. The fashion became more gorgeous and extravagant until the vogue for Western clothing brought about a sharp decline. Although sun and moon, waves and clouds, are popular material for crest designs, the largest group derives its designs from the botanical kingdom, thus testifying to the Japanese love of plants. There are in all about 370 kinds of crests in Japan, of which seventy or eighty are still in daily use. —G.